GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1968
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Shortage of Pilots
Chaudhury Shri Jitendra

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is a reported shortage of Indian pilots type rated Commanders in aviation industry in the country

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) The current strength of foreign pilots in aviation industry in the country;

(d) The number of co-pilots of upgraded as commanders during the last one year.

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a)-(b) There is shortage of type rated Commanders in the country due to growth in aviation industry and induction of new aircraft in the fleet of the airlines. However, sufficient numbers of Indian co-pilots are available and employed with the airlines. These co-pilots do not possess sufficient training and experience as required to become commander on that type.

To cover the shortage of type rated pilots, validation of foreign pilots is done as per rule 45 of Aircraft rules, 1937. Indian pilots which are inducted by airlines and are eligible to become Pilot- in- Command (PIC) as per the policy of airlines are being trained by them to phase out Expat pilots. As a follow up, cases of Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorisation (FATA) pilots are processed on the basis of information furnished by each airline and only after security clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) The detail of foreign pilots employed by various operators as on 30th September, 2015 is at Annexure "A".

(d) The details of number of co-pilots upgraded to commanders of scheduled airlines during the last year are at Annexure "B".